

COMMENTS BEFORE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE


FEBRUARY 23, 2011 SUSAN BRANSFIELD, FIRST SELECTWOMAN OF PORTLAND

HB 6153, "AAC The Installation of Energy Efficient Lighting on the Arrigoni Bridge

- Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I am here to support Raised House Bill 6153 and the lighting of the Arrigoni Bridge using LED lighting and solar. The architectural lighting of the bridge will enhance the economic development programs now being initiated by Portland and the celebration of the Bridge's 75th anniversary in 2013.
- Other cities and communities in the United States have shown that architectural lighting of bridges increases economic development possibilities, promotes community pride and enhances tourism. We have many new as well as long standing businesses on Main Street Portland; an active Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park located at our **National Historic Landmark** quarries; and a pending \$40 million re-development project at the former Elmcrest Hospital site on Route 66. This project will help all these endeavors.
- Honeywell has done an excellent job in bringing to Middletown and Portland a clean, renewable energy strategy for the lighting of the bridge. We know of no other bridge in the U.S. that is solar powered. This is an exciting and extremely unique solution which has been worked on for 15 years.
- The use of solar technology and LED lighting is part of our national energy efficiency strategy and goals and its expansion will create jobs. We have a unique opportunity to be the first in the nation to apply this technology to a bridge. We are setting what could become a national trend.
- Portland residents and thousands of travelers and businesses residing east of the Connecticut River will be severely impacted by the Arrigoni Bridge repaving and reconstruction project to be undertaken over approximately two years beginning this summer. This is an enormous burden being placed on our town and region. The passage of this bill is a positive step. Let's move this legislation forward and send a signal that we are serious about promoting energy efficiency and economic development.

I ask for your support of HB 6153. Please have the DOT and their team of experts join Middletown and Portland in the installation of the lights on the Arrigoni Bridge. Help make this a reality for our state and region. Thank you!

Sincerely yours,


Susan S. Bransfield, First Selectwoman, Portland, CT